Oxford joins Met Office Academic Partnership

24 October 2013 - The University of Oxford has today joined the Met Office Academic Partnership (MOAP) to add further expertise to this world-class research group.

Oxford joins the Met Office and Universities of Exeter, Reading and Leeds in the partnership, which was formally established in 2010 to advance the science and skill of weather and climate prediction.

Currently the UK is a world leader in this field and the MOAP aims to consolidate that position by drawing together research strengths of members to produce innovative, groundbreaking science.

Professor Julia Slingo, Chief Scientist at the Met Office, said: "Forecasting the weather, and understanding and predicting the future course of our climate, remain among the most socially important and scientifically demanding challenges of our age. No single institution can cover the breadth and depth of expertise to address these challenges.

"I am delighted that Oxford is joining the other leading universities with the Met Office to ensure that, together, we accelerate the pace of research to provide the answers that society increasingly asks of us, around the risks of extreme weather and the impacts of our changing climate."

During the three years since the MOAP was established, it has delivered over £6 million of scientific research and has provided a framework to develop our science leaders of the future.

An event held today formally recognises the addition of the University of Oxford to the partnership and celebrates achievements so far, while looking forward to new avenues of research.

Professor Tim Palmer, Royal Society Research Professor in Climate Physics and Professorial Fellow at Jesus College, Oxford, said:"As the effects of anthropogenic climate change start to grip, it is becoming even more vital for society that extremes of weather and changes in regional climate are forecast accurately and reliably.

"This presents many challenges... the Met Office Academic Partnership with the University of Oxford will help overcome many of these challenges by strengthening the science underpinning weather and climate prediction."

Professor Peter Read, Department of Physics, University of Oxford, added: "We are delighted to be joining this partnership with the Met Office, which will provide new opportunities for us to enhance and extend our engagement with the UK's principal weather and climate research and service organisation, and the other academic partners.

"Oxford brings a wealth of expertise across a very broad range of research... this partnership will enable partners to refocus their efforts on tackling some of the most challenging issues facing human society today."

Contact information

Met Office Press Office: **+44 (0)1392 886655**

E-mail: Press Office

Met Office Customer Centre: **01392 885680**

If you're outside the UK: **+44 1392 885680**

Last updated: 24 October 2013